



# Shopping Tips

## Protecting Credit Cards While You Shop

(NAPSA)—Spending a little time thinking about your shopping habits could save you money and protect you from theft.

One important—but often overlooked—tip is to carefully watch your credit card bill for suspicious purchases. Immediately report any unauthorized use to your credit card company. Experts say that criminals who get a hold of credit card numbers often make small purchases first as a way to “test the waters.” If they see that those small purchases go undetected, they then go on to make larger purchases.

MasterCard offers these additional tips to help prevent becoming a victim of card fraud:

- **Shop Safe**—Store your credit cards securely while shopping and never leave credit cards in glove compartments. Wallets left in glove compartments account for thousands of credit card thefts each year.

- **Dispose Of Risky Information**—Destroy credit card receipts and statements after they have been reconciled. Also, when you are ready to dispose of statements and other financial documents, be sure to shred them prior to putting them in the trash.

- **Maintain Accurate Records**—Record your credit card account numbers, expiration dates and customer service department telephone numbers in case of lost or stolen cards. Store the information in a safe location.

- **Keep Account Information Secure**—Do not give your bank account or credit card number to any caller who is unknown to you—especially if the caller is trying to sell you something or offers you a prize. It’s important to pro-



**It’s important to protect your credit card information when shopping.**

tect your credit card information when shopping. The same holds true for Internet or mail solicitations. Only give out your credit card information if you initiate the transaction and you are comfortable that the company you are dealing with is reputable.

- **Be Sure Online Credit Card Purchases Are Secure**—You should be comfortable that the company you’re dealing with is reputable.

Look for an icon picture of a padlock or a solid key at the lower section of your browser window to verify that your personal information is being protected.

- **Trust Your Merchant**—Be cautious about doing business on the spot with somebody who calls you without a reference. Ask the person to send you information by mail if you are uncertain.

- **Do Not Disclose Personal Information**—Do not put your address, telephone number or other information that is not on your credit card on the credit card receipt.

For more tips, visit the Web site [www.mastercard.com](http://www.mastercard.com).